The #1 selling shojo manga in America!

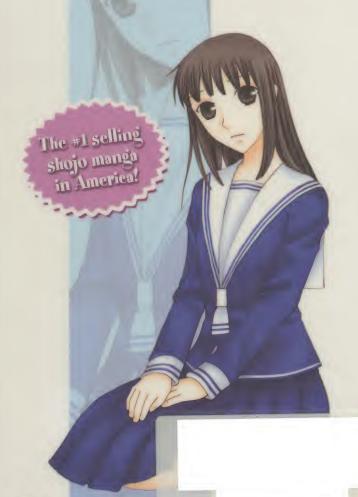
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Natsuki Takaya

The #1 selling shojo manga in America!

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Natsula Talaya



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Matsuki Takaya

The #1 selling shojo manga in America!

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Natsuki Takaya

Kagura and Kazuma hotly discuss
Tohru liking Kyo. With Kagura's
forceful encouragement, will
Tohru be able to muster up the
courage to tell Kyo how she feels?
Meanwhile, Ren is determined to
get her hands on Akito's mystery

box—even if it means killing for it!

















Volume 20



Natsuki Takaya

# STORY SO FAR...

Hello, I'm Tohru Honda, and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent, when the Sohma family took me in. I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, that person changes into his or her Zodiac animal!



# Fruits Basket

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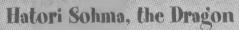
## Fruits Basket Characters



Mabudachi Trio

Shigure Sohma, the Dog

Enigmatic, mischievous and a little perverted. A popular novelist.



Family doctor to the Sohmas. Only thing he can't cure is his broken heart.





Ayame Sohma, the Snake

Yuki's older brother. A proud and playful drama queen...er, king. Runs a costume shop.

#### Saki Hanajima

"Hana-chan." Can sense people's "waves." Goth demeanor scares her classmates.

#### Arisa Uotani

"Uo-chan." A toughtalking "Yankee" who looks out for her friends.



Tohru's Best Friends



#### Tohru Honda

The ever-optimistic heroine of our story. An orphan, she now lives in Shigure's house, along with Yuki and Kyo, and is the only person outside of the family who knows the Sohma family's curse.

#### Yuki Sohma, the Rat

Soft-spoken. Self-esteem issues. At school, he's called "Prince Yuki."





### Kyo Sohma, the Cat

The Cat who was left out of the Zodiac. Hates Yuki, leeks and miso. But mostly Yuki.

### Kagura Sohma, the Boar

Bashful, yet headstrong. Determined to marry Kyo, even if it kills him.



### Fruits Basket Characters

#### Isuzu "Rin" Sohma, the Horse

She was once in a relationship with Hatsuharu (Haru), and Tohru leaves her rather cold, Rin is full of pride, and she can't stand the amount of deference the other Sohma family members give Akito.



### Ritsu Sohma, the Monkey

This shy, kimono-wearing member of the Sohma family is gorgeous. But this "she" is really a he!! Cross-dressing calms his nerves.



#### Kureno Sohma, the Rooster (or bird)

He is Akito's very favorite, and spends almost all of his time on the Sohma estate, tending to Akito's every desire. Kureno was born possessed by the spirit of the Bird, but his curse broke long ago. which means we've never seen him transformed. He pities Akito's loneliness, and can't bring himself to leave her.



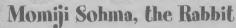
#### Aktio Sohma

The head of the Sohma clan. A dark figure of many secrets. Treated with fear and reverence. It has recently been revealed that Akito is actually a woman!



#### Hiro Sohma, the Ram (or sheep)

This caustic tyke is skilled at throwing verbal barbs, but he has a soft spot for Kisa.



Half German. He's older than he looks. His mother rejected him because of the Sohma curse. His little sister, Momo, has been kept from him most of her life.



### Hatsuharu Sohma, the Ox

The nicest of guys, except when he goes "Black." Then you'd better watch out. He was once in a relationship with Rin.



### Kisa Sohma, the Tiger

Kisa became shy and self-conscious due to constant teasing by her classmates. Yuki, who has similar insecurities, feels particularly close to Kisa.











Nice to meet you and hello. This is Takaya, presenting Furuba Volume 20.

Volume 20...this has actually reached Volume 20.

Machi's on the cover this time around. At first I thought about having the Mogeta paperweight that Yuki gave her on the back cover, but I ended up going with the footprints. (It might be hard to tell from the picture, but those are the footprints Yuki and Machi put in the snow (laugh).)

Speaking of Mogeta, I first planned that Machi liked rabbits, and she sat behind Momiji, and since her heart thundered over rabbit merchandise, she liked Mogeta because Mogeta looks like a rabbit (only not really (laugh).) That was the story I thought of, anyway. But in the end, I couldn't fit that in, so Machi just became a simple Mogeta fangirl (laugh).

Now then, please enjoy Furuba 20.

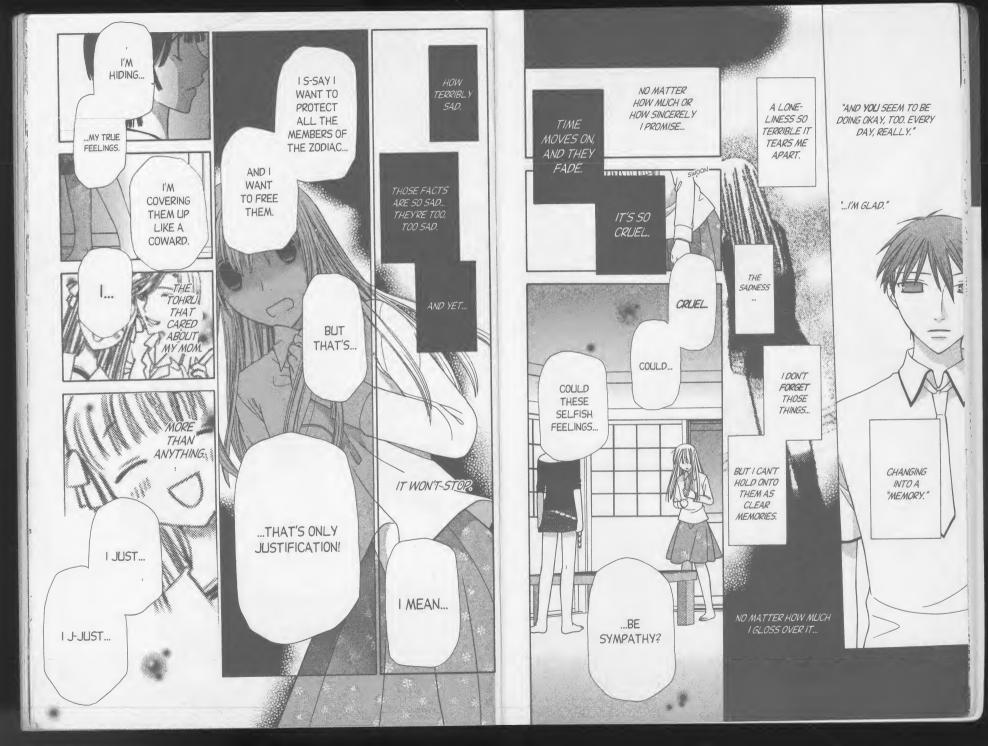






























Filler Sketch





















REN-SAN.





























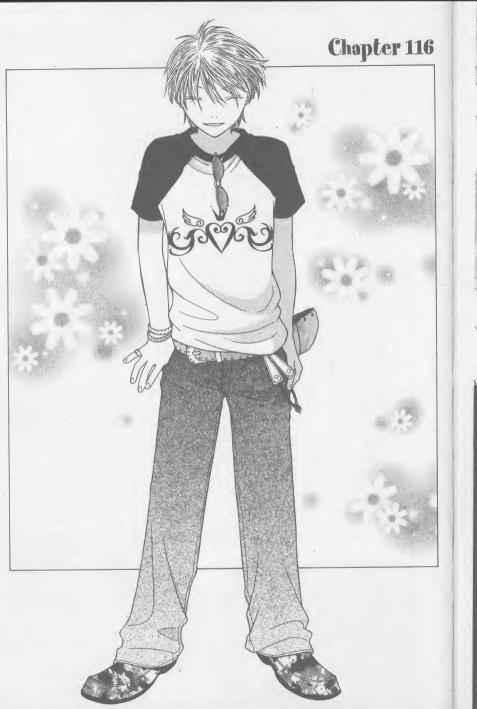




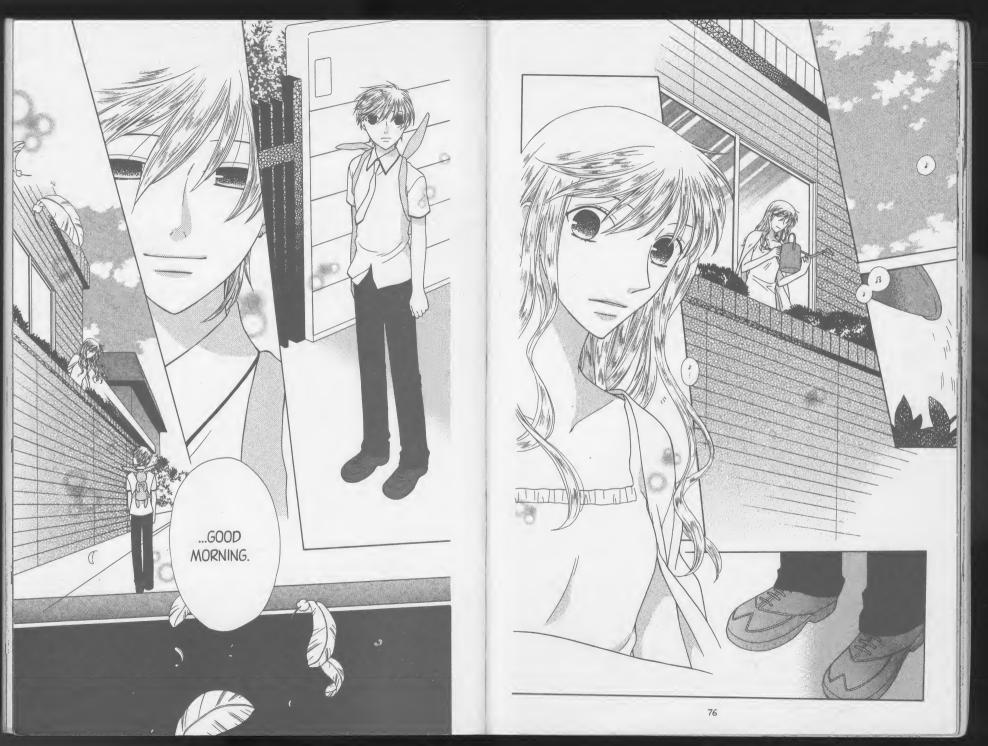




















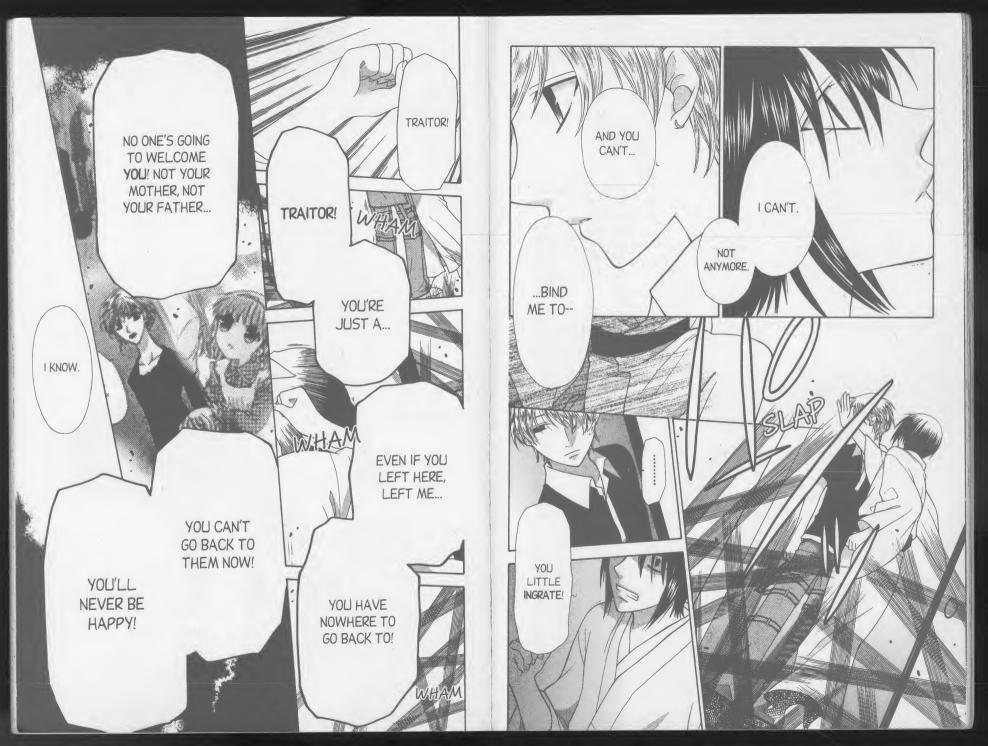




















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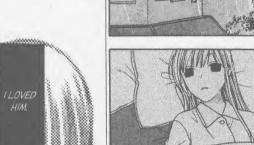




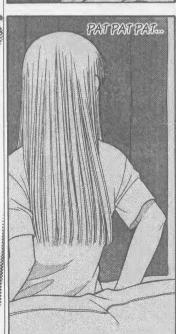


## Chapter 117





PAT PAT PAT...



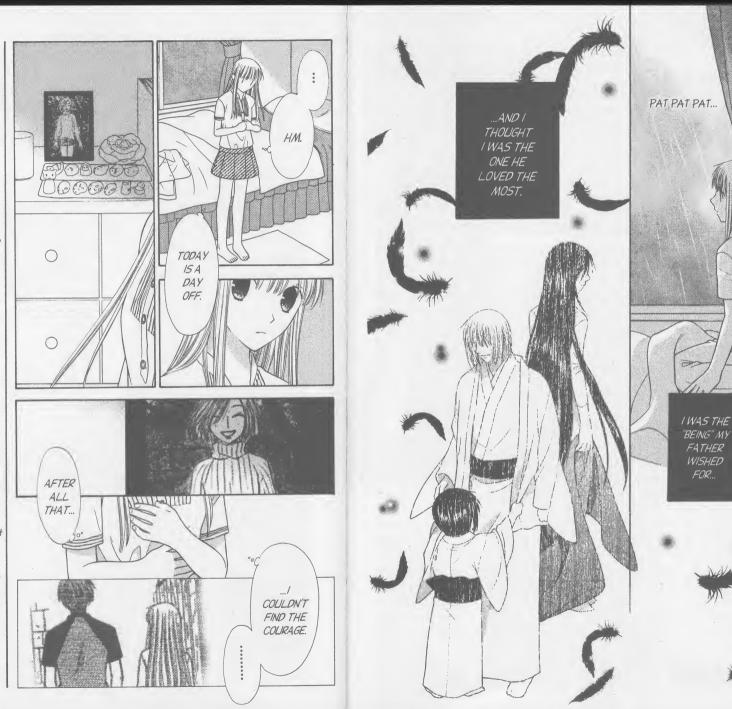




## Talking and such.

This time. I intentionally have fewer columns. I figured that with the story getting insanely serious, the columns might interrupt the mood. Thus there really aren't that many of them. (But that ... might (?)...be a good thing. (laugh)) And the volume ends at a terrible place... It seems like Kyo's feelings were deeper than I was prepared for. When drawing, there aren't that many characters who give me trouble (like by not moving the way I planned, etc.), but he may have given me the next most trouble after Kureno-san.

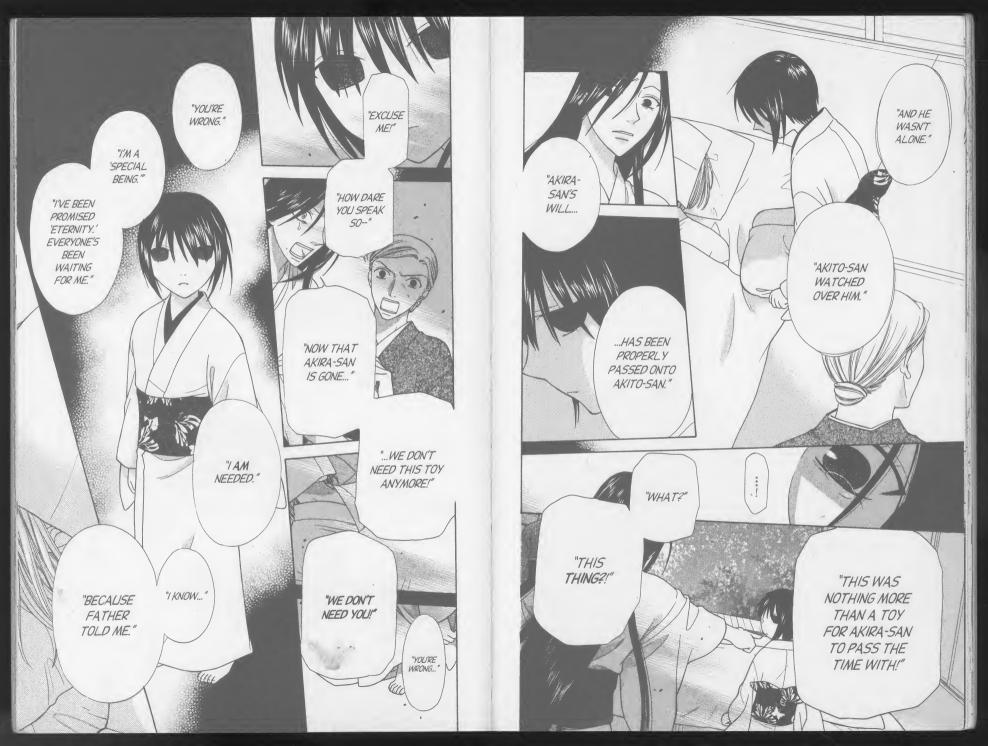
Kureno-san was awful... He'd be like, "I don't want to do that. That won't work, either," and just wouldn't agree with the development that I, the author, would present to him (laugh). So I said, "Do what you want!" and let him walk freely, and the result is what you see now. It's fun to go along with my characters, but sometimes it wears me out (laugh).



...IT'S

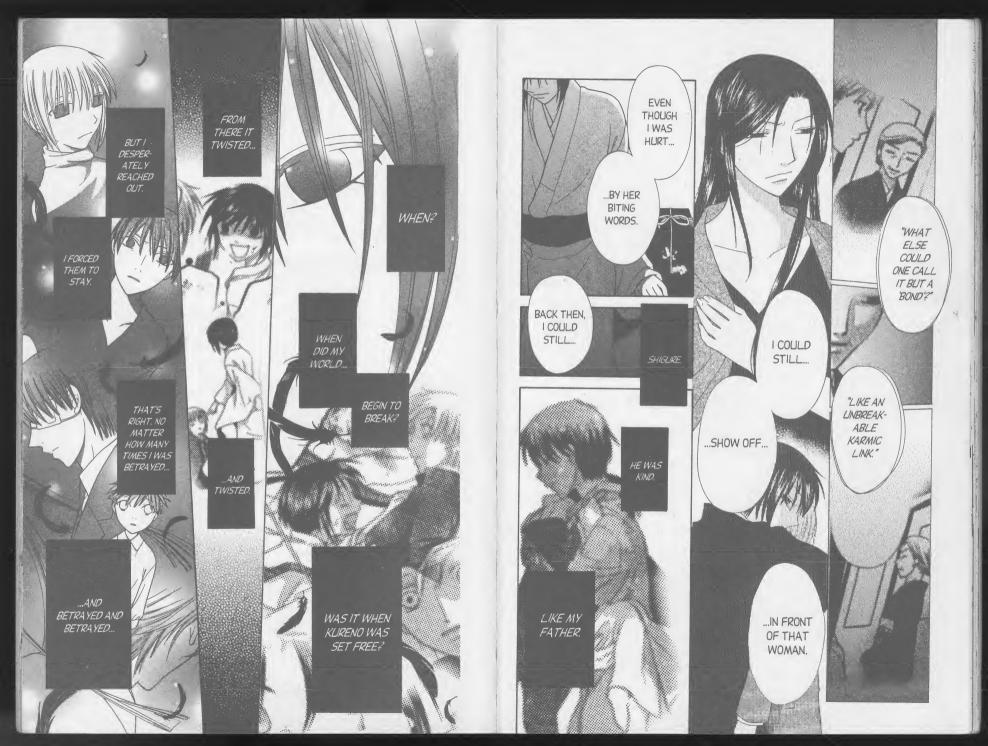
RAINING.











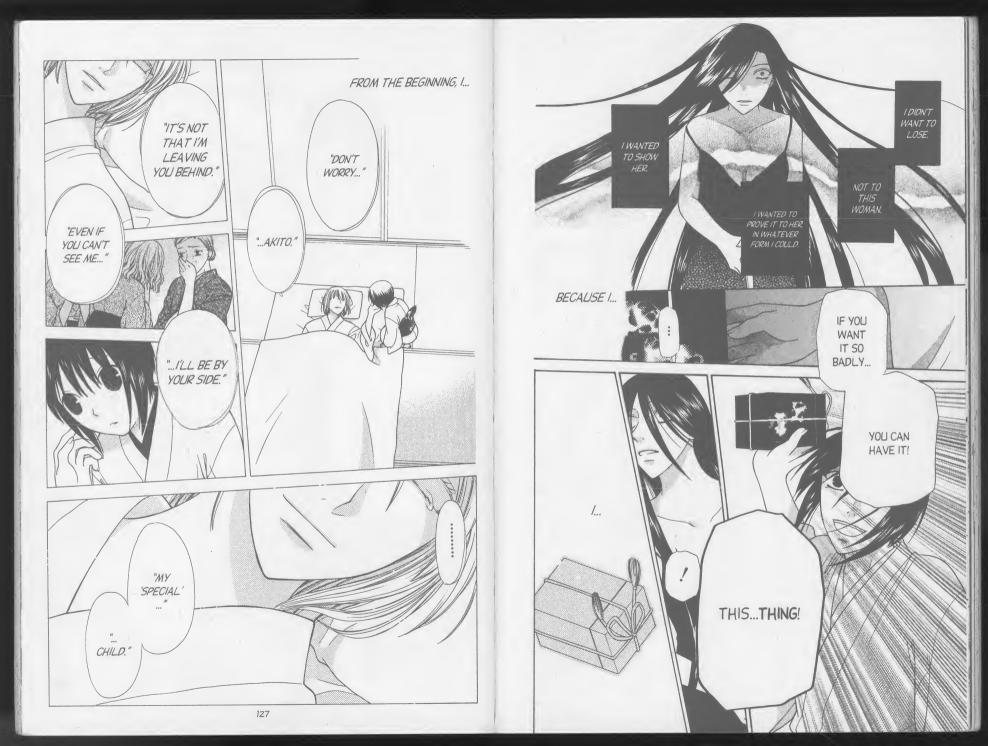










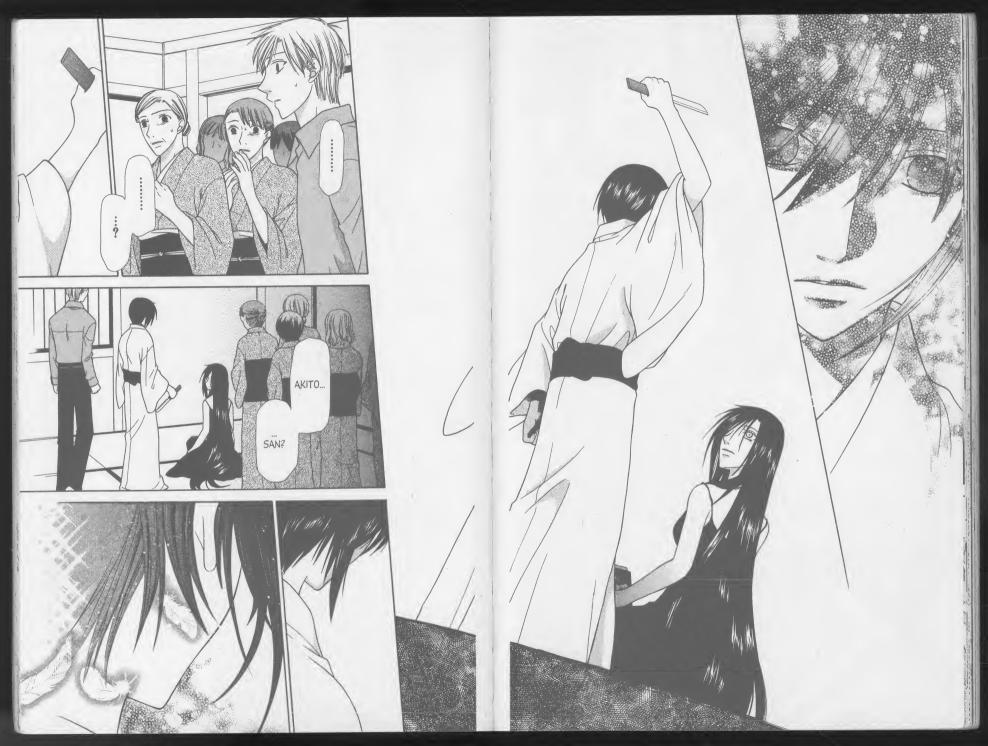






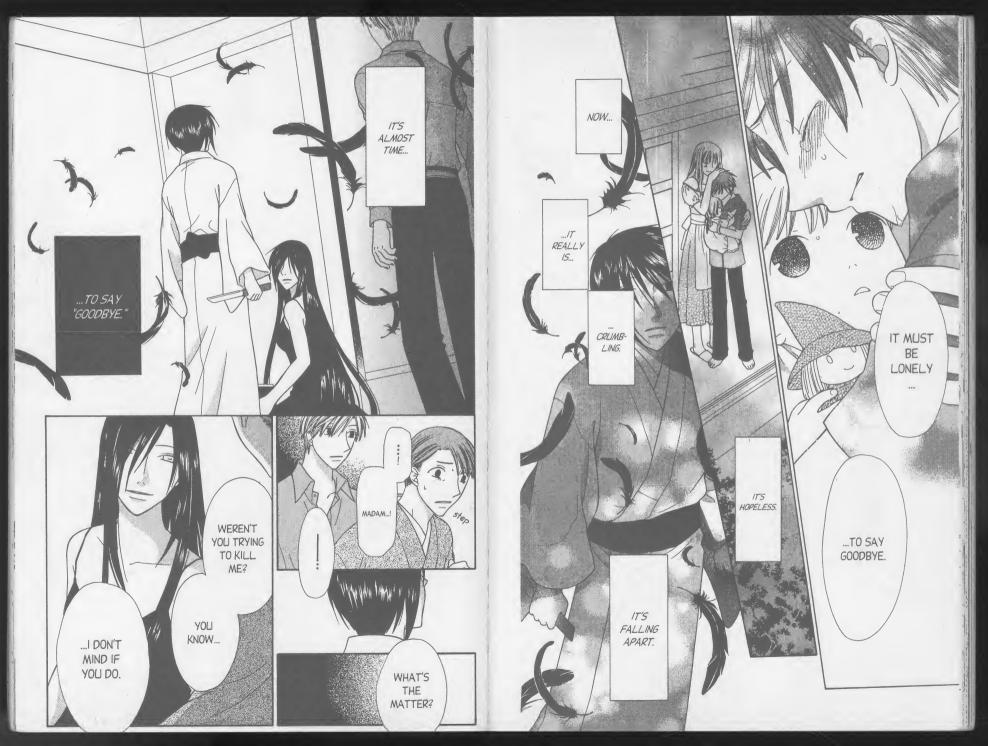








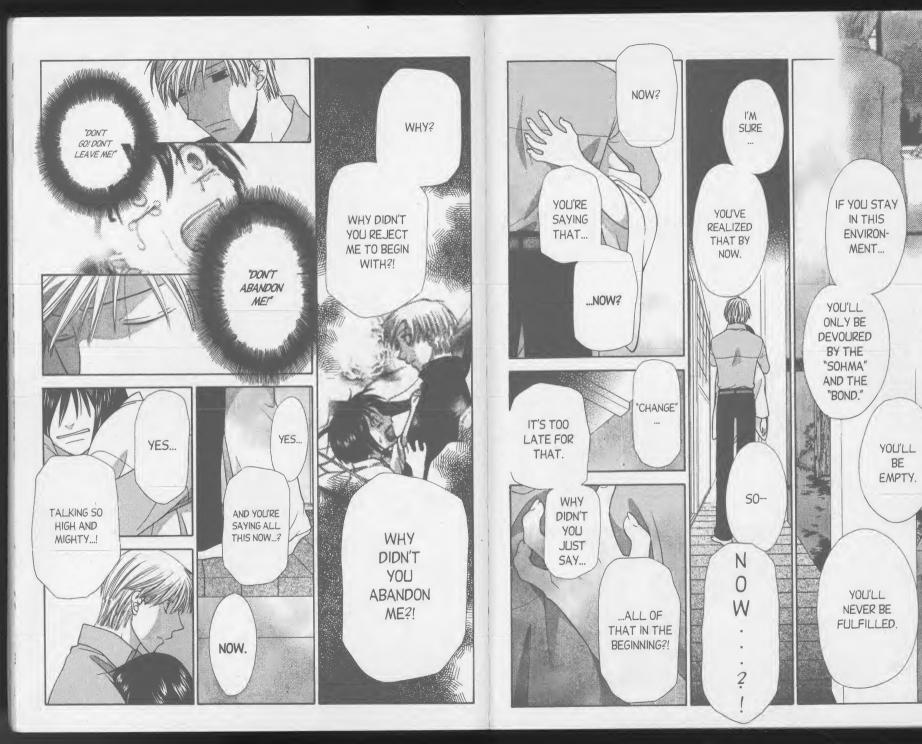
















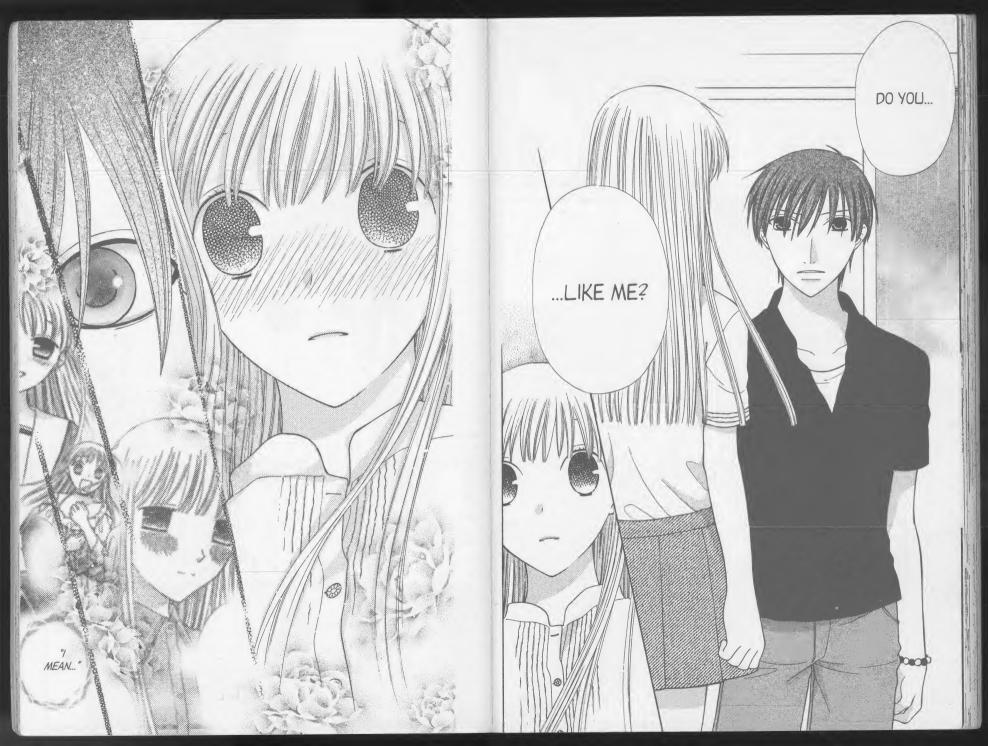






















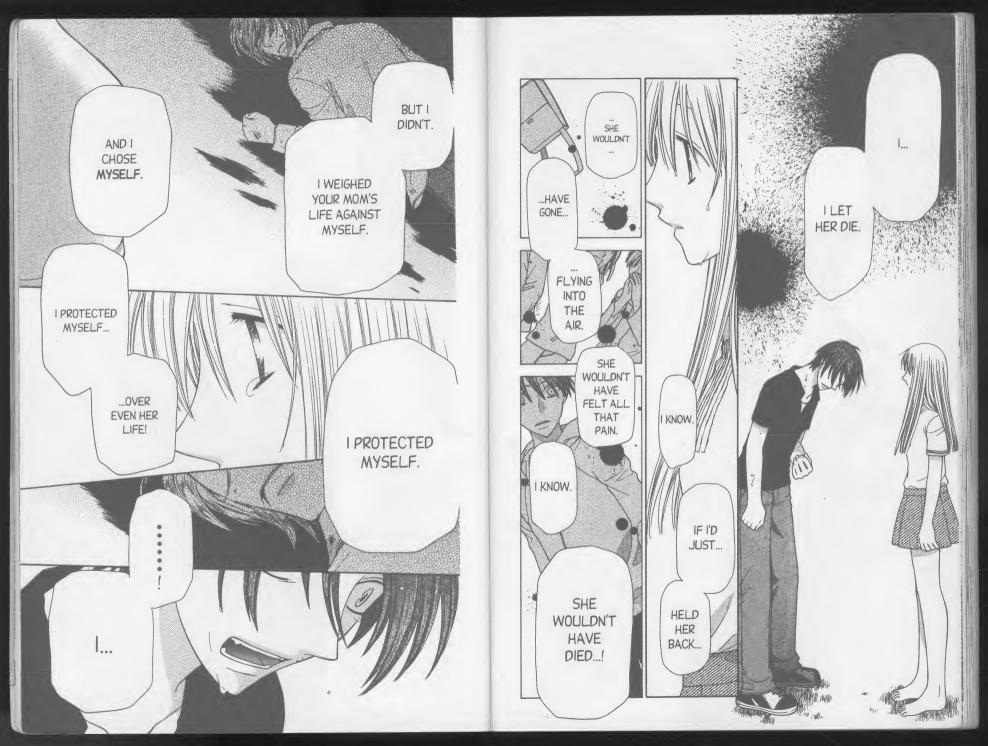




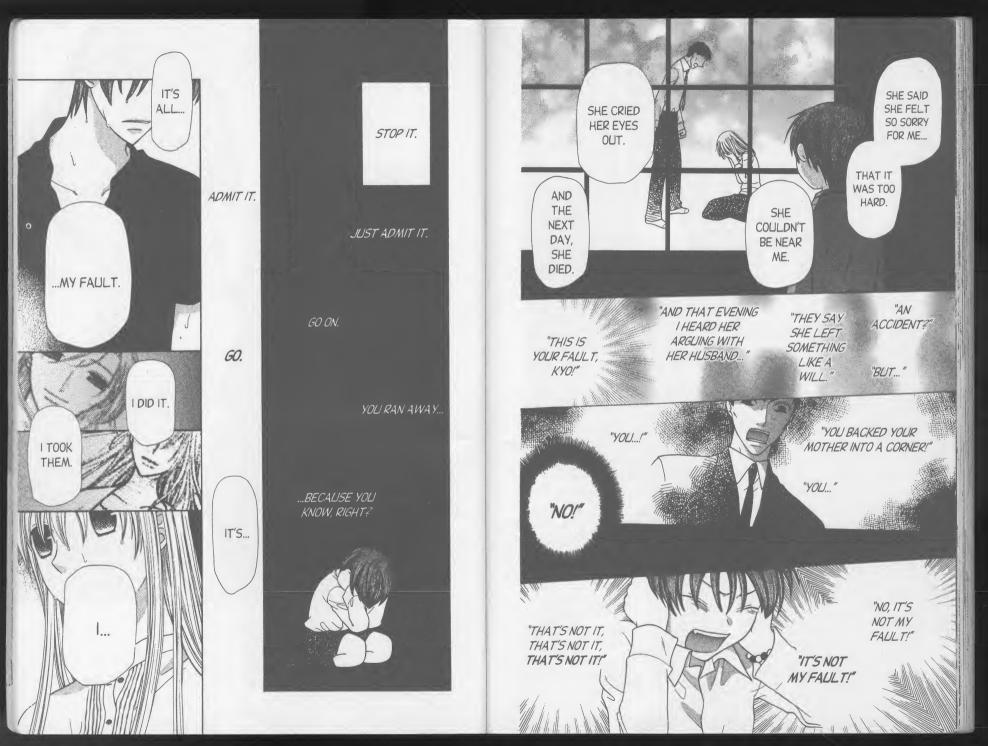
















Next time in...



## Coming Clean

Kyo reveals all, telling Tohru about his role in her mother's death. Kyo explains that he overcame his guilt by blaming everything on Yuki, but he now realizes that he was only running away from his own feelings. How will he react when Tohru says that she still loves him?

Fruits Basket Volume 21 Available November 2008



Hannah Lees Age 24 Los Angeles, CA Awwwww... Tohru and Kyo look so cozy in your sketch, Hannah! Adorable!

## Fans Basket

I can't believe there are only a few volumes of Fruits Basket left! And even though the series is coming to an end, I continue to receive more and more fan art! One thing is certain, your dedication is not ending anytime soon! Take our first piece of fan art in this edition of Fans Basket, for example... Amazing!

- Paul Morrissey, Editor



Maria Hoffman Age 20 Bay Shore, NY Whoa! Maria, you are the ultimate fan! You know, TOKYOPOP is publishing the *Fruits Basket Sticker Book*, and it contains temporary tattoos...so you didn't need to go out and get a real one! Nonetheless, I admire the dedication!



Gabby Tran Age 13 Pass Christian, MS

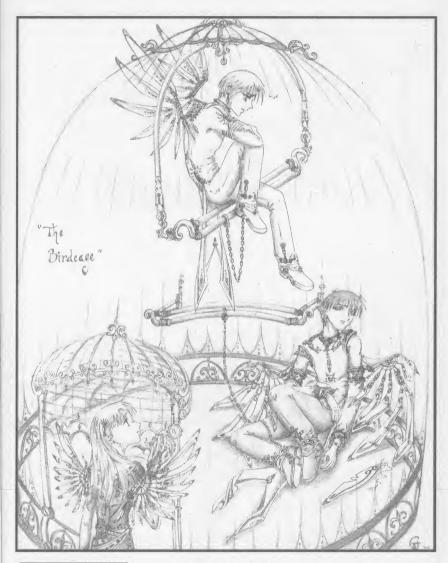
Thanks for drawing such an cute sketch of Kisa, Gabby! The flowers on Kisa's outfit are a particularly nice touch.



Crystal Styron Age 17 Murfreesboro, NC Haru looks soooo cool on his bike! And I love the panels showing him putting on the goggles and the glove. Nice work!



Patty You Age 16 Cerritos, CA This is such an intense picture of Rin! You've totally captured Rin's strength and sense of determination, Patty.



Jaili Nochlin Age 30 Mexico City, Mexico In her letter, Jaili wrote that the Furuba characters reminded her of caged birds, and that notion inspired her to draw this amazing piece of art! Gorgeous work, Jaili!